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# family economics. review

Consumer and Food Economics Research Division  
Agricultural Research Service

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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25<sup>th</sup>  
anniversary

ARS 62-5  
March 1968

FAMILY ECONOMICS REVIEW is a quarterly report on research of the Consumer and Food Economics Research Division and on information from other sources relating to economic aspects of family living. It is developed by Dr. Emma G. Holmes, research family economist, with the cooperation of other staff members of the Division. It is prepared primarily for home economics agents and home economics specialists of the Cooperative Extension Service.

## FAMILY ECONOMICS REVIEW'S TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

Statement by Dr. George W. Irving, Jr., Administrator,  
Agricultural Research Service, USDA

It is gratifying to see FAMILY ECONOMICS REVIEW enter its 26th year of service to American families and consumers. This achievement testifies to the continued interest of the Department of Agriculture in their welfare.

The publication began in January 1943 as WARTIME FAMILY LIVING to keep extension home economists posted on wartime regulations affecting families. The name was changed in 1945 to RURAL FAMILY LIVING and, in 1957, to its present name. Today, FAMILY ECONOMICS REVIEW brings together and interprets economic data affecting consumers from USDA and many Government sources, for use by extension workers, college and high school teachers, social welfare workers, and other leaders working with farm and city people.

This excellent work is part of the broader effort by the Department to improve consumer welfare. USDA recently strengthened and redirected its consumer-related work so it will serve the needs and interests of all our people now and in the future. As part of the Agriculture/2000 plan for the future, for example, USDA has grouped the work relating to consumers under the goal Dimensions for Living. This should help us do a better job of providing improved diets and nutrition, a safe and wholesome food supply, economic data for family living, and services to protect the health and safety of our people.

The wide scope of the material contained in FAMILY ECONOMICS REVIEW reflects the Department's objective of providing Americans with a flow of information on problems affecting their welfare.

FAMILY ECONOMICS REVIEW has been doing this successfully for a quarter of a century. It is my hope that it will continue serving the needs of American families and consumers for many more years to come.

### FAMILIES THEN AND NOW

Although this publication has had three titles during its 25 years, it has kept one word in the title unchanged--FAMILY. Meanwhile, the U.S. family has undergone many changes. This article reviews some of these changes, using data for years as near 1968 and 1943 as the literature provides.

The number of U.S. households, which was about 35 million in the early 1940's, is now about 59 million. Farm households total about 3 million now, compared with

7 million in 1940--or 5 percent of all U.S. households compared with 20 percent. The drop in farm households is the result of the movement from farms to urban areas and of the change in the Census definition of a farm, which dropped many small, unproductive units from the farm classification.

Size.--The average U.S. household has about 3.3 members now, down from 3.7 in 1940. It has fewer adults (2.1 persons 18 years old or over, compared with 2.5 in 1940) but slightly more children under 18 (1.2 and 1.1, respectively). This is partly because so many more single persons and elderly couples maintain their own households now. It also reflects the fact that people are marrying and establishing homes younger than before. Families (groups of two or more related persons living together) averaged 3.7 members in 1966, slightly smaller than the 1940 average of 3.8 persons.

Marriages and children.--Men and women are marrying younger than they did two decades ago, and fewer of them remain single throughout life. The median age at first marriage for all men who had married was 22.8 years in 1966. This was 1-1/2 years younger than in 1940, when the median was 24.3 years. For women who had married, the median age at first marriage was 20.5 in 1966, 1 year less than the 1940 median of 21.5 years.

Among men 20 to 24 years old in 1966, only 52 percent were unmarried. In 1940, 72 percent of the men in this age group had not yet become bridegrooms. As for women, who traditionally marry younger than men, only 30 percent of the 20- to 24-year-olds were unmarried in 1966 in contrast with 47 percent in 1940. The proportion of men and women 75 years old or over who had never married was about 7 percent in 1966, compared with 9 percent in 1940.

Perhaps related to the earlier marriages--as well as to the more affluent times--is the fact that women in the 1960's have more children than those of the early 1940's. The number of children ever born per 1,000 women 15 to 44 years old was almost 50 percent higher in 1964 than in 1940. The change was even greater for women 20 to 24 and 25 to 29 years old--the main child-bearing ages. The number of children 1,000 women in these age groups had borne was 84 and 91 percent higher, respectively, in 1964 than in 1940.

Education.--A high school education (12 years) represents the median level of schooling for persons 25 years old or over in 1966, a great improvement over the 8-year median of 1940. About 10 percent of this age group are college graduates, compared with 5 percent then. Advances in education are even greater for younger groups, who have had the advantage of the recent emphasis on the importance of schooling. For example, among persons 25 to 34 years old, 14 percent now have college degrees, compared with 6 percent in 1940.

The improvements in educational levels reflect increased school enrollment rates in all school-age groups. Higher enrollment is particularly notable in the age groups that represent the beginners and the high school and college students. For example,



between 1940 and 1965 the enrollment rate for 5-year-olds increased from 18 percent to 70 percent, and the rate for 18- and 19-year-olds from 29 to 46 percent.

Employment.--The types of jobs people do to earn a living have undergone major changes since 1940. Among employed men, for example, the proportion working in agriculture dropped from 24 percent in 1940 to only 9 percent in 1960. This was offset in part by large increases for men working in manufacturing (up from 25 to 30 percent of those employed) and in such miscellaneous industries as construction, transportation, entertainment, and finance (28 percent in 1940, 33 percent in 1960). Percentages of employed men in work related to education, public administration, and health services increased 1 or 2 points each.

In the job picture for women, the big development has been the movement of wives (husband present) into the labor force. The number of wives gainfully employed (or trying to find jobs) was 15.2 million in March 1966, compared with 4.2 million in 1940. Part of the increase is the result of population growth, of course. But much of it is due to the fact that a larger proportion of married women than ever before have decided to combine paid employment with homemaking. About 35 percent of all U.S. wives (husband present) are in the labor force today, more than double the 15 percent figure of 1940. The labor force rate for wives 35 years old or over has actually tripled--36 percent now compared with only 12 percent then. However, the rate for younger wives--those under 35 years--has not quite doubled since it is 34 percent now compared with 18 percent then. Married women of all ages represented 20 percent of the civilian U.S. labor force in 1966, but only 8 percent in 1940.

Incomes and prices.--Median family income in 1966 was \$7,436--almost three times the 1944 median of \$2,533. Incomes were distributed as follows:

<u>Money income before tax</u>	<u>Percent of families in--</u>	
	<u>1966</u>	<u>1944</u>
Under \$3,000 -----	14	60
\$3,000 to \$5,999 -----	22	33
\$6,000 to \$9,999 -----	34	5
\$10,000 and over -----	30	2

As income rose, so did prices. The Consumer Price Index of September 1967 indicated that prices in general were almost 100 percent higher than in December 1942. Food prices were up 108 percent, clothing 87 percent, and rent 72 percent. Although prices in the mid-1960's were higher, the average family was better off than in 1944, for the median "real income" of families was about 60 percent higher.

Homeownership and quality of housing.--Owner-occupied homes increased from 44 percent of all U.S. homes in 1940 to 62 percent in 1960. Ownership is still highest on farms (74 percent now, 53 percent then), lowest in urban areas (58 vs. 38 percent).

Higher incomes and living standards have resulted in better housing, too. In 1960, 74 percent of all U.S. housing units were reported to have been in sound condition and supplied with piped hot and cold water and private bath and flush toilet. This was a major improvement over 1940, since only 51 percent of U.S. homes were so described at that time. For farm homes, the improvement was even more dramatic even though they still did not measure up to the U.S. average in 1960, when 51 percent were sound and had all plumbing facilities compared with 10 percent in 1940.

--Emma G. Holmes

## QUALITY OF DIETS IN U.S. HOUSEHOLDS IN SPRING 1965

The charts on pages 7 and 8 highlight the dietary situation in the United States, as shown by a nationwide survey of household food consumption made by the U.S. Department of Agriculture in the spring of 1965.<sup>1/</sup> Diets were rated "good" that met the Recommended Dietary Allowances set by the Food and Nutrition Board of the National Academy of Sciences--National Research Council, for seven nutrients--protein, calcium, iron, vitamin A value, thiamine, riboflavin, and ascorbic acid. Diets were rated "poor" that furnished less than two-thirds of the allowance for one or more of these nutrients. The charts show that--

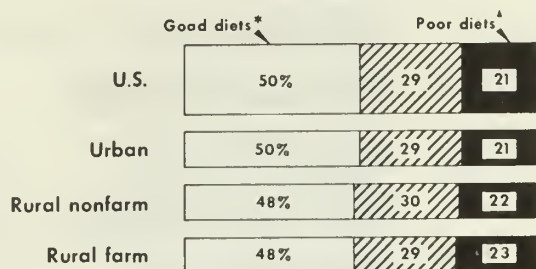
- One-half of U.S. diets were good and one-fifth were poor in the spring of 1965, in both urban and rural areas (fig. 1).
- About one-half of the diets in each region were good. Diets were poor in more households in the North Central and Southern Regions than in other regions (fig. 2).
- More high- than low-income households had good diets (fig. 3). However, some had poor diets even at high-income levels.
- Diets of 15 percent of U.S. households were below allowances for three or more nutrients (fig. 4).
- Diets were most often below allowances in calcium, vitamin A value, and ascorbic acid (fig. 5). Few diets were below two-thirds of allowances for any nutrient but these three.
- Urban diets met allowances for vitamin A and ascorbic acid more often than farm diets; farm diets met allowances for calcium, iron, and thiamine more often than urban diets (fig. 6). Farm diets also met allowances for protein and riboflavin more often than urban diets.

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<sup>1/</sup> DIETARY LEVELS OF HOUSEHOLDS IN THE UNITED STATES, SPRING 1965--A Preliminary Report. ARS 62-17.



## URBANIZATION AND QUALITY OF DIETS



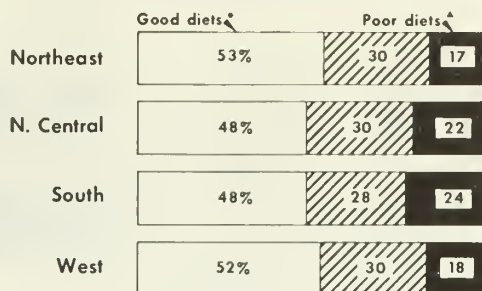
\* MET RECOMMENDED DIETARY ALLOWANCES FOR 7 NUTRIENTS  
<sup>Δ</sup> HAD LESS THAN 2/3 ALLOWANCE FOR 1 TO 7 NUTRIENTS  
 NATIONWIDE HOUSEHOLD FOOD CONSUMPTION SURVEY, SPRING 1965

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Figure 1

## REGION AND QUALITY OF DIETS



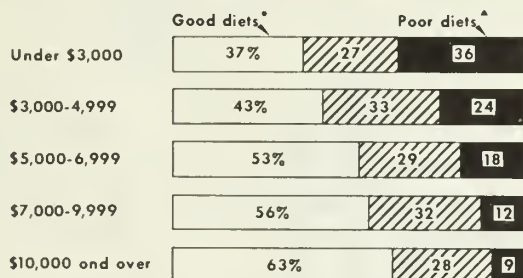
\* MET RECOMMENDED DIETARY ALLOWANCES FOR 7 NUTRIENTS  
<sup>Δ</sup> HAD LESS THAN 2/3 ALLOWANCE FOR 1 TO 7 NUTRIENTS  
 NATIONWIDE HOUSEHOLD FOOD CONSUMPTION SURVEY, SPRING 1965

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Figure 2

## INCOME AND QUALITY OF DIETS



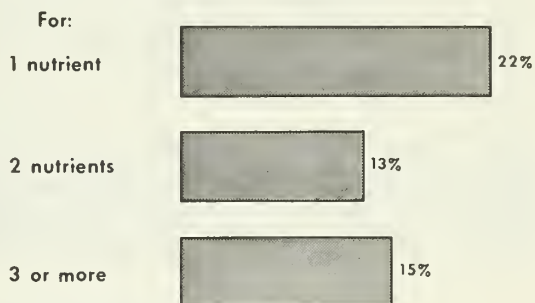
\* MET RECOMMENDED DIETARY ALLOWANCES FOR 7 NUTRIENTS  
<sup>Δ</sup> HAD LESS THAN 2/3 ALLOWANCE FOR 1 TO 7 NUTRIENTS  
 NATIONWIDE HOUSEHOLD FOOD CONSUMPTION SURVEY, SPRING 1965

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Figure 3

## DIETS BELOW ALLOWANCES



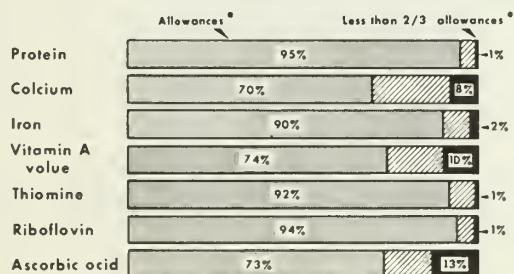
RECOMMENDED DIETARY ALLOWANCES  
 NATIONWIDE HOUSEHOLD FOOD CONSUMPTION SURVEY, SPRING 1965

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Figure 4

## DIETS PROVIDING ALLOWANCES AND LESS THAN 2/3 ALLOWANCES



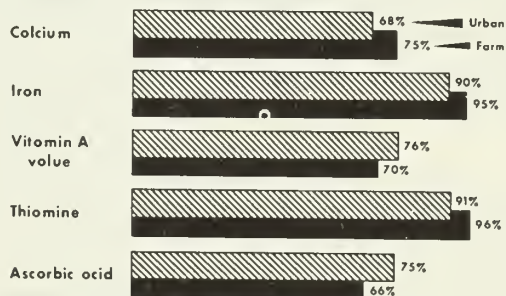
\* RECOMMENDED DIETARY ALLOWANCES  
 NATIONWIDE HOUSEHOLD FOOD CONSUMPTION SURVEY, SPRING 1965

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Figure 5

## DIETS MEETING ALLOWANCES\* Urban and Farm



\* RECOMMENDED DIETARY ALLOWANCES  
 NATIONWIDE HOUSEHOLD FOOD CONSUMPTION SURVEY, SPRING 1965

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Figure 6

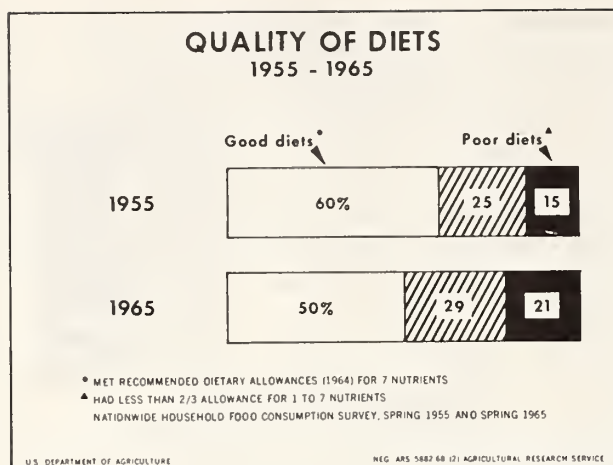


Figure 7

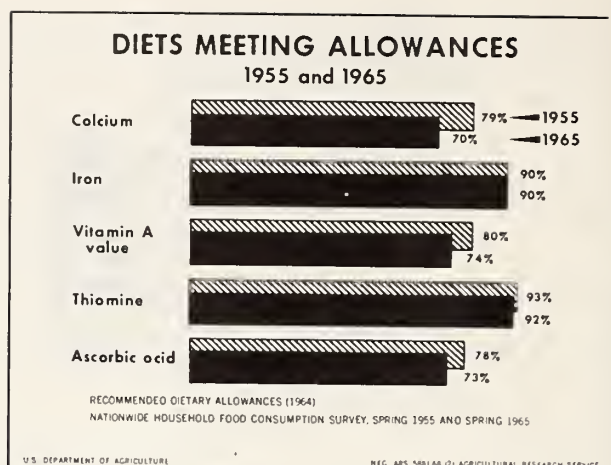


Figure 8

- Relatively fewer U.S. households had good diets in 1965 than in 1955 (fig. 7).
- Calcium, vitamin A value, and ascorbic acid were the nutrients most often below allowances in both 1965 and 1955--but more often in 1965 than 1955 (fig. 8).

Increased consumption of milk or other good sources of calcium, vegetables, and fruit is needed to improve diets not meeting allowances. Awareness of the foods that make up a good diet, a desire to choose these foods, and enough money to buy adequate food must become more universal if most U.S. households are to have good diets.

--Sadye F. Adelson and Betty B. Peterkin

## CLOTHING EXPENDITURES FOR INDIVIDUALS

A recent publication of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, gives a wealth of information about the clothing expenditures of individuals, based on the Survey of Consumer Expenditures in 1960-61. <sup>1/</sup> Although the expenditures themselves may seem out of date now, 7 or 8 years later, they show some basic relations in clothing expense that are of lasting interest because they change relatively little over time.

This article discusses total clothing expenditures of individuals living in urban areas. The average expenditure for clothing in 1960-61 was \$155 per person in urban

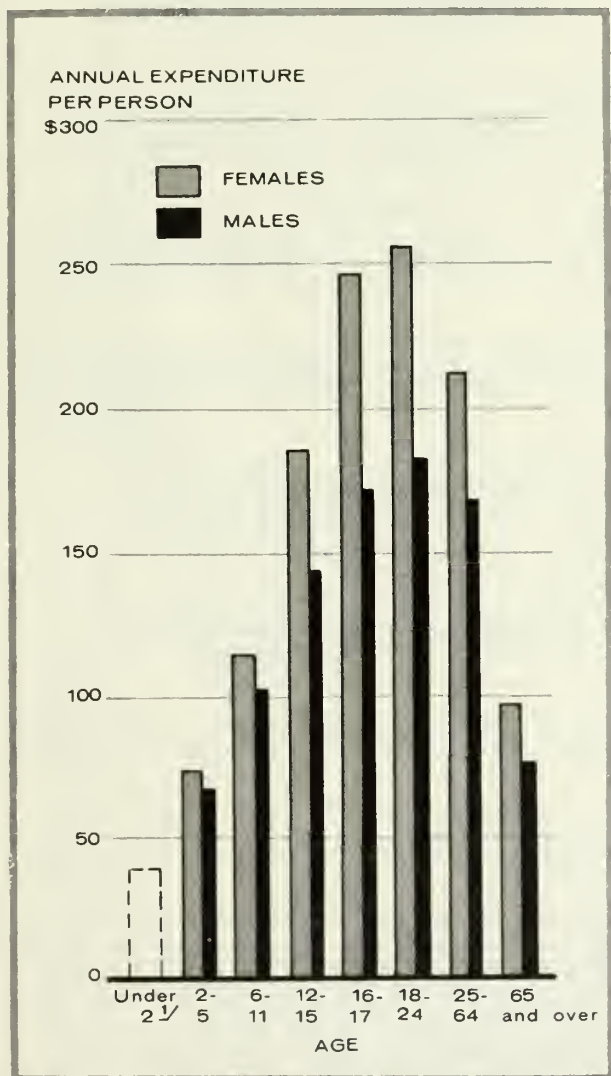
<sup>1/</sup> U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. CLOTHING FOR URBAN FAMILIES: EXPENDITURES PER MEMBER BY SEX AND AGE, 1960-61. Bul. No. 1556. 1967. For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, for 75 cents.

households. However, the expenditure varied for men, women, boys, and girls of different ages, in different income groups, and living in different regions.

### Variations in Clothing Expenditures Related to Age and Sex

Average clothing expenditures increased as the child grew, peaked at young adulthood (age 18 to 24 years), then declined with advancing age (ages 25 to 64 and 65 and over). For example, starting with a \$38 average per year for urban children under 2, clothing expenditures for females increased to \$115 for girls 6 to 11, peaked at \$255 for young women 18 to 24, and declined to \$98 for women 65 and over (table 1). Males in each age group had lower expenses than females. They averaged \$104 for boys in grade school, \$185 for young men, and \$77 for elderly men (see figure).

Per Person Clothing Expenditures by Age and Sex,  
Urban United States, 1960-61



Bureau of Labor Statistics

<sup>1</sup> Clothing for boys and girls under two was not reported separately.

Clothing expenditures for adults 18 to 64 years old differed with their family status, reflecting differences in interests and financial pressures. Among women, top spenders were single consumers 18 to 24 years of age, who spent an average of \$440. Lowest women spenders were wives in husband-wife families with children under 18 only, who averaged \$186, and women in one-parent families, averaging \$162. Among men, top spenders were the single consumers, averaging \$210 to \$226 for different age groups.

### Variations Related to Income

Clothing expenditures per person generally increased as family income increased, but at a slower pace. Men 25 to 64 years old, for example, spent an average of \$108 when income was \$3,000 to \$3,999; \$136 when it was \$5,000 to \$5,999; and \$197 when it was \$7,500 to \$9,999. The clothing expenditures of men in this age group increased about 0.6 percent with a 1 percent rise in income, on the average (table 2).

The response of clothing expenditures to an increase in income varied with sex, age, and family status. In general, expenditures for women and girls increased more than those for men and boys, and



Table 1.--Clothing expenditures per person per year, by family income after taxes, urban United States, 1960-61

Sex, age, and family status	Persons	All 1/	\$1,000- \$1,999	\$2,000- \$2,999	\$3,000- \$3,999	\$4,000- \$4,999	\$5,000- \$5,999	\$6,000- \$7,499	\$7,500- \$9,999	\$10,000- \$14,999
Number	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
<b>AGE</b>										
Children under 2 years -----	1,433	38	21	27	36	37	41	42	46	36
<b>Males</b>										
2 to 5 years -----	1,503	67	36	37	54	57	58	75	86	82
6 to 11 years -----	1,893	104	46	64	77	81	87	102	133	140
12 to 15 years -----	1,128	144	(2/)	74	95	118	131	144	159	191
16 to 17 years -----	402	173	(2/)	(2/)	(2/)	180	151	143	178	222
18 to 24 years -----	1,192	185	73	143	132	146	160	183	219	224
25 to 64 years -----	6,548	169	61	77	108	135	136	160	197	244
65 years and over -----	1,103	77	33	51	77	69	103	131	106	113
<b>Females</b>										
2 to 5 years -----	1,467	74	48	43	52	56	71	79	100	98
6 to 11 years -----	1,856	115	39	63	63	94	99	120	136	164
12 to 15 years -----	1,061	187	(2/)	101	116	125	162	190	219	273
16 to 17 years -----	428	247	(2/)	(2/)	151	180	213	275	261	351
18 to 24 years -----	1,489	255	116	167	173	190	210	282	338	439
25 to 64 years -----	7,281	212	74	105	151	161	164	201	257	351
65 years and over -----	1,500	98	47	79	95	123	141	95	137	310
<b>FAMILY STATUS</b>										
Men 18 to 64 years	7,390	169	54	71	105	125	136	161	198	241
In families: All 3/ -----										
Husband and wife with children under 18, only -	3,450	157	60	74	104	122	133	152	195	250
Husband and wife only -----	1,369	167	61	70	104	129	148	180	217	286
Other types -----	2,557	187	37	68	109	129	135	164	194	227
Single consumers: All -----	350	212	93	156	183	263	249	242	(2/)	(2/)
18 to 24 years -----	35	226	(2/)	(2/)	(2/)	(2/)	--	(2/)	--	--
25 to 64 years -----	315	210	(2/)	128	172	262	249	267	(2/)	(2/)
Women 18 to 64 years	8,181	216	64	88	125	148	164	208	264	364
In families: All -----										
Husband and wife with children under 18, only -	3,453	186	46	66	104	123	148	174	233	362
Husband and wife only -----	1,580	242	82	77	145	167	180	269	355	467
One-parent families -----	262	162	73	119	152	239	(2/)	(2/)	(2/)	(2/)
Other types -----	2,886	245	50	100	129	164	180	230	265	346
Single consumers: All -----	589	263	111	218	319	375	470	460	(2/)	(2/)
18 to 24 years -----	50	440	(2/)	(2/)	(2/)	(2/)	(2/)	--	--	--
25 to 64 years -----	539	247	107	178	307	365	442	460	(2/)	(2/)

1/ Includes a few with incomes of less than \$1,000 and \$15,000 or more, not shown separately.

2/ Fewer than 30 persons in the cell.

3/ Includes 14 persons in one-parent families, not shown separately.

Table 2.--Increase in clothing expense accompanying a 1 percent rise in family income after tax, by sex, age, and family status, urban areas, 1960-61

Age and family status	Males	Females
	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>
AGE		
Under 2 years -----	0.25	
2 to 5 years -----	0.48	0.61
6 to 11 years -----	.54	.59
12 to 15 years -----	.51	.62
16 to 17 years -----	.48	.70
18 to 24 years -----	.45	.64
25 to 64 years -----	.64	.70
65 years and over -----	.67	.65
FAMILY STATUS, ADULTS		
In families: All persons 18 to 64 years --	.70	.84
Husband and wife, children under 18, only	.68	.96
Husband and wife only -----	.78	.93
One-parent families -----	--	.93
Other types of families -----	.71	.82
Single consumers 25 to 64 -----	.71	.98

expenditures for older persons tended to increase more than those for younger ones. Groups whose clothing expenditures increased most with a 1 percent rise in family income were:

Women single consumers (25 to 64 years), whose expenditures rose almost 1 percent; and

Women (18 to 64 years) in husband-wife families with children under 18, whose expenditures also rose almost 1 percent. (For men in these families, clothing expense increased about 0.7 percent with a 1 percent rise in income.)

Groups whose clothing expenditures increased least with a 1 percent rise in income were:

Children under 2 years, with an expenditure increase of about 0.3 percent; and  
Boys and young men in each age group between 2 and 24--about 0.5 percent.

The relation between amounts spent for clothing for persons in a family differ from one income group to another. The data show that women (18 to 64) in husband-wife families with children under 18 spent:

- the same amount as men of the same age and family status when family income was low (\$3,000 to \$3,999); and
- 20 percent more than the men when income was higher (\$7,500 to \$9,999).



Families spent about 35 percent as much to clothe a child under 2 as a man at the low-income level, and 25 percent as much at the higher level. At all income levels clothing for a child 2 to 5 years old cost the family about one-half as much as that for a man. One reason for the relatively low family spending to clothe youngsters is that many children also receive gifts of clothing from outside the family.

### Variations Related to Region

Average clothing expenditures for persons in most sex-age groups were highest in the Northeast Region (table 3). They were lowest in the South for all except girls 16 and 17 and men and women 18 to 24 years old. These young persons had lowest expenses in the West. Other age groups in the West spent more than their counterparts in the South but less than those in the Northeast.

Table 3.--Clothing expenditures per person per year, by region, urban areas, 1960-61

Sex and age	United States	North-east	North Central	South	West
	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Dollars</u>
Children under 2 years	38	42	39	34	38
<u>Males</u>					
2 to 5 years -----	67	85	61	60	65
6 to 11 years -----	104	115	99	98	104
12 to 15 years -----	144	159	138	128	152
16 to 17 years -----	173	192	194	144	150
18 to 24 years -----	185	194	189	177	172
25 to 64 years -----	169	187	157	153	177
65 years and over --	77	88	80	65	71
<u>Females</u>					
2 to 5 years -----	74	88	70	66	72
6 to 11 years -----	115	134	106	101	122
12 to 15 years -----	187	213	187	165	179
16 to 17 years -----	247	284	272	205	201
18 to 24 years -----	255	304	241	239	228
25 to 64 years -----	212	240	201	188	220
65 years and over --	98	120	99	70	98

Regional differences in clothing expense reflect differences in income, climate, manner of living, and preferred uses of income. The low expenditures in the South may be due to the lower incomes and mild climate there. Lower expenditures in the West than the Northeast cannot be explained by income, for the two regions had about the same average income per person. They more likely are due to the milder climate, higher spending on cars, and possibly a more casual mode of dress--especially for young people.

--Virginia Britton

## U.S. CLOTHING EXPENDITURES INCREASING

Per capita expenditure on clothing and shoes reached an all-time high of \$205 in 1966, according to the U.S. Department of Commerce. This was about 9 percent of expenditures for personal consumption. Clothing expenditures have been rising in recent years, in both current and constant (1958) dollars, as the following shows:

Expenditures for clothing and shoes in constant (1958) and current dollars

Year	Aggregate expenditures for clothing and shoes in--		Average expenditures per capita in--		Percent of per- sonal consumption expenditures in--	
	1958 dollars	Current dollars	1958 dollars	Current dollars	1958 dollars	Current dollars
	<u>Bil.dol.</u>	<u>Bil.dol.</u>	<u>Dol.</u>	<u>Dol.</u>	<u>Dol.</u>	<u>Dol.</u>
1960	26.6	27.3	147	151	8.4	8.4
1961	26.9	27.9	146	152	8.3	8.3
1962	28.4	29.6	152	159	8.4	8.3
1963	29.1	30.6	154	162	8.2	8.2
1964	31.6	33.5	164	174	8.5	8.3
1965	33.6	36.1	173	186	8.4	8.3
1966	36.4	40.3	185	205	8.7	8.6

Between 1960 and 1966, per capita expenditure for clothing and shoes--in constant dollars--increased 26 percent. While a large part of this increase resulted from trading up in quality and quantity of clothing bought as incomes increased, some of it was due to the higher proportion of 15- to 24-year-olds (a group with relatively high clothing expenditures) in the population.

--Virginia Britton

## SOCIAL SECURITY AMENDMENTS OF 1967

The 1967 amendments to the Social Security Act made extensive changes. Some of the changes affecting the Old Age, Survivors, Disability, and Health Insurance (OASDHI) programs are mentioned below. More details about these and information about other provisions of the new law may be obtained from local social security offices.

- Persons entitled to monthly social security benefits under OASDHI will receive larger amounts--at least 13 percent larger--beginning with the check due in March 1968. The minimum for a man who retired at 65 (or a woman at 62) is \$55 a month instead of \$44, and his family may get \$82.50 instead of \$66.

- Persons 72 years old or over who are not eligible for regular OASDHI benefits will get \$40 a month for an individual (was \$35) and \$60 for a couple (was \$52.50).
- A beneficiary may earn \$1,680 a year (was \$1,500) in paid employment without losing any of his OASDHI payment. On earnings above \$1,680 he will lose \$1 for every \$2 earned, up to \$2,880. Above \$2,880 he loses \$1 for every \$1 earned. As before, a person can earn any amount without losing benefits after he reaches 72.
- A person serving in the Armed Forces will receive credit toward social security benefits for more than his base pay (about \$100 more a month). This gives him and his family more protection than his base pay would provide. He will pay no additional tax for the extra coverage.
- A widow too disabled to work may be able to get monthly benefits as early as age 50, even without a child in her care, if her husband worked long enough under social security.
- A worker who becomes disabled before he is 31 may get disability benefits if he has coverage for one-half of the time between age 21 and the time he becomes disabled. Previously he had to be covered for 5 of the 10 years before.
- In 1968 the social security tax for wage and salary workers will be 4.4 percent and for self-employed persons 6.4 percent of earnings up to \$7,800 a year. In 1967 they paid at the same rates on earnings up to \$6,600.
- More of the aged will be eligible for medicare. One who becomes 65 in 1968 has to have only 3 quarters of social security coverage (was 6 quarters) to be eligible for hospital insurance. For persons reaching 65 after 1968, the coverage requirement will increase by 3 quarters a year until it is the same as that for cash benefits.
- The premium for medical insurance--the voluntary program that helps pay doctor bills--goes up to \$4 a month in April 1968. It has been \$3 a month.
- Hospital outpatient diagnostic services have been transferred from the hospital to the voluntary medical insurance program.
- If the doctor of a medical insurance beneficiary does not wish to collect payment directly from medicare (and accept the reasonable charge as determined by medicare), the beneficiary may send the bill to medicare--even if it is not yet paid--and collect benefits.
- Several medicare benefits have been added or expanded. For example, hospital insurance provides for more hospital benefit days, and medical insurance helps buy or rent medical equipment like wheelchairs and hospital beds.



### The Wholesome Meat Act

The Wholesome Meat Act was signed and became effective December 15, 1967. It will assure consumers that virtually all the meat on sale in the United States has been inspected for wholesomeness. The Meat Inspection Act of 1906 provided for Federal inspection of meat and meat products produced in plants dealing in interstate or foreign commerce, leaving the inspection of other meats up to State and local governments. In September 1967, however, 21 States did not require inspection of animals before and after slaughter, and 7 of these States had no meat inspection laws at all.

Under the Wholesome Meat Act of 1967 the Federal Government will give financial, technical, and scientific help to States to improve their meat inspection programs. A State is given 2 years to set up a program equal to the Federal program, with a third year if good progress is being made then but the task isn't quite done. The U.S. Department of Agriculture may provide inspection immediately at any plant that is a health hazard and that the State fails to inspect. The act requires meat imports to meet the same strict requirements as U.S.-produced meats. This will mean more careful review of foreign systems and a thorough re-inspection at the port of entry.

Some other provisions of the new law that will increase consumer protection are (1) USDA authority over industries that could divert unfit meat to the human food supply, such as transporters, renderers, cold storage warehouses, and animal food manufacturers; (2) USDA regulation of meat storage and handling facilities, to prevent adulteration and misbranding; and (3) USDA authority to detain and seize unfit meat.

### National Commission on Product Safety

On November 20, 1967, the President signed a Joint Resolution of Congress to appoint a National Commission on Product Safety. The commission will study measures used to protect consumers against unreasonable risk of injuries that may be caused by hazardous household products, such as faulty washing machines and defective wall sockets. It will consider what kinds of household products may present unreasonable hazards and what protection is offered by industry regulations, common law, and Federal, State, and local laws. The study will not include products regulated by Federal agencies under present laws such as the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act and the Flammable Fabrics Act. The commission is to report its findings and recommendations by November 1969.

### Amendment to the Flammable Fabrics Act

A law signed December 14, 1967, amended the Flammable Fabrics Act of 1953, which made the manufacture and sale of highly flammable clothing and clothing fabrics unlawful. The new law authorizes the Secretary of Commerce to establish flammability standards for articles of apparel not previously covered and for interior furnishings made of fabrics or related materials, such as paper, plastics, rubber, and synthetic film or foam. A national advisory committee representing industry and consumers is to help work out the standards.

## THE NEW CITY WORKER'S FAMILY BUDGET

A new City Worker's Family Budget has been issued by the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics.<sup>1/</sup> This budget represents a moderate standard of living for a family of four, consisting of an employed father 38 years old; a wife not employed outside the home; and two children, a 13-year-old boy and an 8-year-old girl. The man is assumed to be an experienced worker and well advanced in his trade or profession. The budget is an estimate of the total cost, at autumn 1966 prices, of goods and services needed by families of this type for a level of living that provides for "maintenance of health and social well-being, the nurture of children, and participation in community activities."

The new City Worker's Family Budget (CWFB) is based on a list of goods and services that reflect the manner of living and consumer choices prevailing in the 1960's. The selection of these goods and services was based, where possible, on standards of adequacy as defined by scientists and experts and translated to reflect actual buying practices of families. Where scientific standards were not available, the budget items were based on analyses of the consumption and spending of budget-type families, as shown primarily by data from the 1960-61 Consumer Expenditure Survey. The budget also includes allowances for personal income and social security taxes, occupational expenses, gifts and contributions, and life insurance.

BLS has estimated the cost in autumn 1966 of the new budget for 39 metropolitan areas and for a sample of nonmetropolitan areas in each region, as well as for U.S. urban areas as a whole. The table gives the U.S. averages and estimates for nonmetropolitan areas and three metropolitan areas in each region (one low-, one medium-, and one high-cost). Not shown in the table but available in the BLS report are separate estimates for homeowner and renter families in each area. The BLS report also gives budget figures for the following metropolitan areas:

Boston, Mass.	Cleveland, Ohio	Dallas, Tex.
Hartford, Conn.	Detroit, Mich.	Durham, N.C.
Philadelphia, Pa.	Green Bay, Wis.	Houston, Tex.
Pittsburgh, Pa.	Indianapolis, Ind.	Nashville, Tenn.
Portland, Me.	Kansas City, Mo.-Kans.	Orlando, Fla.
Cedar Rapids, Iowa	Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minn.	Denver, Colo.
Champaign-Urbana, Ill.	Wichita, Kans.	San Diego, Calif.
Chicago, Ill.	Atlanta, Ga.	San Francisco-Oakland, Calif.
Cincinnati, Ohio	Baltimore, Md.	Seattle-Everett, Wash.

In the future, estimates of the cost of the City Worker's Family Budget will be made as of the spring of the year and published periodically for the same areas. Costs at spring 1967 prices are to be published.

<sup>1/</sup> U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. CITY WORKER'S FAMILY BUDGET FOR A MODERATE LIVING STANDARD, AUTUMN 1966. Bul. No. 1570-1. For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, for 30 cents.



Cost of the City Worker's Family Budget for a 4-person family 1/--U.S. averages and nonmetropolitan areas and selected metropolitan areas in each region; autumn 1966 prices.

Area 2/	Total budget3/	Family consumption						Personal taxes	Other costs7/
		Total3/	Food4/	Housing5/	Clothing	Transportation	Other6/		
	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.	Dol.
Urban United States:									
Total -----	9,191	7,329	2,143	2,214	756	815	1,401	1,080	782
Metropolitan areas 8/ -----	9,376	7,474	2,173	2,286	767	815	1,433	1,112	790
Nonmetropolitan areas 9/-----	8,366	6,681	2,005	1,894	709	813	1,259	935	751
Northeast:									
Lancaster, Pa. ---	8,890	7,104	2,286	1,945	755	773	1,344	1,023	763
Buffalo, N.Y. ----	9,724	7,657	2,209	2,378	791	878	1,401	1,269	798
New York, N.Y. ---	10,195	8,031	2,380	2,655	789	731	1,477	1,351	813
Nonmetropolitan areas -----	8,985	7,166	2,179	2,131	730	820	1,305	1,041	778
North Central:									
Dayton, Ohio -----	8,711	7,016	2,063	2,045	764	819	1,326	935	760
St. Louis, Mo. ---	9,241	7,376	2,199	2,202	760	839	1,375	1,092	772
Milwaukee, Wis. --	9,740	7,547	2,064	2,508	758	829	1,388	1,415	778
Nonmetropolitan areas -----	8,535	6,819	1,994	2,064	731	790	1,239	963	753
South:									
Austin, Texas ----	8,028	6,505	1,995	1,676	703	806	1,325	780	742
Baton Rouge, La. -	8,538	6,863	2,028	1,882	686	896	1,370	920	754
Washington, D.C. -	9,381	7,419	2,135	2,325	733	823	1,403	1,188	774
Nonmetropolitan areas -----	7,855	6,310	1,925	1,676	671	810	1,229	810	735
West:									
Bakersfield, Calif.	8,921	7,103	2,073	1,916	769	894	1,451	981	837
Los Angeles -									
Long Beach -----	9,445	7,514	2,100	2,164	794	873	1,582	1,080	851
Honolulu, Hawaii -	11,190	8,626	2,551	2,848	737	993	1,497	1,748	815
Nonmetropolitan areas -----	8,925	7,008	2,037	2,023	782	847	1,319	1,158	759

1/ Employed husband, age 38; wife not employed; girl 8 years; and boy 13.

2/ The 3 metropolitan areas selected in each region are those with the lowest, middle, and highest budget costs.

3/ The totals represent the weighted average costs for homeowner families (75 percent) and renters (25 percent).

4/ Includes food at home and away from home.

5/ Includes shelter (weighted average cost of owner and renter families), housefurnishings, and household operation.

6/ Includes medical care, personal care, reading, recreation, education, tobacco, alcoholic beverages and miscellaneous.

7/ Includes gifts and contributions, life insurance, occupational expenses, and social security taxes.

8/ Includes all areas with a population of 1 million or more and a sample of metropolitan areas with population between 50,000 and 1 million.

9/ Places with population of 2,500 to 50,000.

## Usefulness of the City Worker's Family Budget

The City Worker's Family Budget does not show how the "average" city worker family of four persons should or does spend its money. The budget is not meant to be used as an exact pattern of expenditures for an individual family setting up a budget. It can, however, give some guidance in budget planning by making the family aware of the many items to be considered and giving some idea of their relative importance. The budgets may also help families moving to a new city to estimate how much more or less their living costs may be after the move.

The BLS budgets are useful for evaluating the general adequacy of the incomes of groups of families in terms of current standards. They are useful in measuring differences in living costs among cities and areas, and among different types of families. They provide guides for social and legislative programs dealing with wages, prices, credit, public assistance, and taxes. Changes in the BLS budgets over time reflect changes in standards of living as well as prices.

## Other BLS Budgets Coming

A new BLS budget for a retired couple, based on autumn 1966 prices, is to be released in 1968. It will represent a moderate standard of living for a self-supporting husband and wife aged 65 or over, not employed, but in reasonably good health and able to take care of themselves.

The BLS is developing budgets for a lower and a higher living standard than the moderate standard of the CWFB. Cost estimates for these two budgets will be based on spring 1967 prices. The lower standard budget might be considered "minimum adequate." It will provide for health, efficiency, and social well-being, but will be lower in content or manner of living than the standard of the CWFB where this is possible without endangering the family's physical health or self-respect as members of their community. This lower standard budget is expected to be a better guide than the moderate standard for use in public assistance and income-maintenance programs.

The higher standard budget will reflect the standard associated with the so-called "American standard of living." It will be useful for such things as determining the ability of self-supporting families to pay for fee services and the eligibility of their children for scholarships.

## Earlier City Worker's Family Budgets

The 1966 budget for the 4-person family is the third City Worker's Family Budget of BLS. The original budget was issued in 1947. The quantities and qualities of goods and services it included were based on the manner of living and standards in the early 1940's. In 1960 the second budget was issued, based on 1959 prices for a list of goods and services representing standards prevailing in the 1950's. It was called an "interim" budget because a more complete revision--the present one--was to be prepared after data from the 1960-61 Consumer Expenditure Survey became available.

# COST OF FOOD AT HOME

Table 1.--Cost of food at home estimated for food plans at 3 cost levels, December 1967, U.S. average 1/

Sex-age groups <u>2/</u>	Cost for 1 week			Cost for 1 month		
	Low-cost plan	Moderate-cost plan	Liberal plan	Low-cost plan	Moderate-cost plan	Liberal plan
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
<u>FAMILIES</u>						
Family of 2:						
20 to 35 years <u>3/</u> ----	15.50	20.80	24.20	67.30	89.90	104.60
55 to 75 years <u>3/</u> ----	12.90	17.60	20.00	56.10	76.00	86.50
Family of 4:						
Preschool children <u>4/</u>	22.80	30.30	35.10	98.70	131.10	151.80
School children <u>5/</u> ---	26.20	35.10	40.90	113.60	151.80	177.10
<u>INDIVIDUALS <u>6/</u></u>						
Children, under 1 year	3.20	4.10	4.40	13.70	17.70	19.00
1 to 3 years -----	4.00	5.20	5.90	17.30	22.50	25.70
3 to 6 years -----	4.70	6.20	7.20	20.20	27.00	31.00
6 to 9 years -----	5.60	7.50	8.90	24.10	32.30	38.60
Girls, 9 to 12 years --	6.40	8.60	9.60	27.80	37.20	41.60
12 to 15 years -----	7.00	9.50	11.00	30.40	41.00	47.40
15 to 20 years -----	7.30	9.60	10.90	31.80	41.70	47.10
Boys, 9 to 12 years ---	6.50	8.70	10.00	28.30	37.80	43.50
12 to 15 years -----	7.50	10.30	11.70	32.60	44.80	50.80
15 to 20 years -----	8.80	11.70	13.40	38.10	50.70	58.00
Women, 20 to 35 years -	6.60	8.80	10.10	28.70	38.10	43.70
35 to 55 years -----	6.40	8.50	9.70	27.60	36.70	42.20
55 to 75 years -----	5.40	7.40	8.40	23.60	31.90	36.20
75 years and over ---	5.00	6.60	7.70	21.50	28.40	33.20
Pregnant -----	8.00	10.30	11.60	34.50	44.60	50.10
Nursing -----	9.10	11.80	13.10	39.60	51.20	56.70
Men, 20 to 35 years ---	7.50	10.10	11.90	32.50	43.50	51.40
35 to 55 years -----	7.00	9.40	10.90	30.30	40.60	47.00
55 to 75 years -----	6.30	8.60	9.80	27.40	37.10	42.40
75 years and over ---	5.90	8.30	9.40	25.60	35.80	40.90

1/ Estimates computed from quantities in food plans published in FAMILY ECONOMICS REVIEW, October 1964. Costs of the plans were first estimated by using average price per pound of each food group paid by nonfarm survey families at 3 income levels in 1955. These prices were adjusted to current levels by use of Retail Food Prices by Cities, released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

2/ Persons of the first age listed up to but not including the second age.

3/ 10 percent added for family size adjustment. For derivation of factors for adjustment, see Family Food Plans and Food Costs, USDA, HERR No. 20.

4/ Man and woman, 20 to 35 years; children 1 to 3 and 3 to 6 years.

5/ Man and woman, 20 to 35 years; child 6 to 9; and boy 9 to 12 years.

6/ Costs given for persons in families of 4. For other size families, adjust thus: 1-person, add 20 percent; 2-person, add 10 percent; 3-person, add 5 percent; 5-person, subtract 5 percent; 6-or-more-person, subtract 10 percent.



Table 2.--Cost of 1 week's food at home estimated for food plans at 3 cost levels, December 1967, for Northeast and North Central Regions 1/

Sex-age groups 2/	Northeast			North Central		
	Low-cost plan	Moderate-cost plan	Liberal plan	Low-cost plan	Moderate-cost plan	Liberal plan
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
<u>FAMILIES</u>						
Family of two, 20-35 years 3/	17.90	22.90	25.70	17.30	21.00	24.60
Family of two, 55-75 years 3/	14.80	19.20	21.40	14.30	17.80	20.50
Family of four, preschool children 4/	26.10	33.30	37.30	25.30	30.80	35.90
Family of four, school children 5/	30.10	38.60	43.60	29.20	35.60	41.80
<u>INDIVIDUALS 6/</u>						
Children, under 1 year						
1 to 3 years	3.50	4.50	4.60	3.50	4.20	4.60
3 to 6 years	4.50	5.70	6.30	4.40	5.30	6.10
6 to 9 years	5.30	6.80	7.60	5.20	6.40	7.40
Girls, 9 to 12 years	6.40	8.20	9.50	6.20	7.60	9.10
12 to 15 years	7.30	9.40	10.20	7.10	8.70	9.80
15 to 20 years	7.90	10.40	11.60	7.80	9.70	11.20
Boys, 9 to 12 years	8.20	10.40	11.50	8.20	9.80	11.20
12 to 15 years	7.40	9.60	10.70	7.30	8.90	10.30
15 to 20 years	8.60	11.30	12.40	8.40	10.50	12.00
Women, 20 to 35 years	10.10	12.80	14.20	9.90	11.90	13.70
35 to 55 years	7.60	9.70	10.70	7.30	8.90	10.30
55 to 75 years	7.30	9.30	10.40	7.00	8.60	10.00
75 years and over	6.20	8.10	9.00	6.00	7.50	8.60
Pregnant	5.60	7.20	8.20	5.50	6.70	7.90
Nursing	9.00	11.30	12.30	8.80	10.40	11.90
Men, 20 to 35 years	10.30	12.90	13.90	10.20	12.10	13.50
35 to 55 years	8.70	11.10	12.70	8.40	10.20	12.10
55 to 75 years	8.10	10.30	11.60	7.80	9.50	11.10
75 years and over	7.30	9.40	10.50	7.00	8.70	10.00
	6.80	9.10	10.10	6.60	8.40	9.70

See footnotes 1 to 6 of table 1, p. 19.

Table 3.--Cost of 1 week's food at home estimated for food plans at three cost levels,  
December 1967, for Southern and Western Regions 1/

Sex-age groups 2/	South				West		
	Low-cost plan	Another low-cost plan 7/	Moderate- cost plan	Liberal plan	Low-cost plan	Moderate- cost plan	Liberal plan
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
<b>FAMILIES</b>							
Family of two, 20 to 35 years 3/----	13.50	12.80	18.00	21.70	17.60	21.90	25.60
Family of two, 55 to 75 years 3/----	11.20	10.40	15.40	18.00	14.50	18.40	21.20
Family of four, preschool children 4/	19.90	19.00	26.50	31.40	25.60	31.80	37.30
Family of four, school children 5/----	22.90	21.60	30.50	36.50	29.70	37.00	43.50
<b>INDIVIDUALS 6/</b>							
Children, under 1 year -----	2.80	2.70	3.60	4.00	3.50	4.30	4.70
1 to 3 years -----	3.50	3.40	4.60	5.30	4.40	5.40	6.30
3 to 6 years -----	4.10	4.00	5.50	6.40	5.20	6.50	7.70
6 to 9 years -----	4.90	4.70	6.50	7.90	6.30	7.90	9.50
Girls, 9 to 12 years -----	5.60	5.20	7.50	8.50	7.20	9.00	10.30
12 to 15 years -----	6.10	5.80	8.30	9.70	7.90	10.00	11.70
15 to 20 years -----	6.40	6.10	8.40	9.80	8.30	10.10	11.70
Boys, 9 to 12 years -----	5.70	5.30	7.60	8.90	7.40	9.20	10.70
12 to 15 years -----	6.50	6.30	8.90	10.30	8.50	10.90	12.50
15 to 20 years -----	7.60	7.20	10.10	11.90	9.90	12.40	14.30
Women, 20 to 35 years -----	5.80	5.40	7.70	9.10	7.50	9.30	10.70
35 to 55 years -----	5.50	5.20	7.40	8.80	7.20	8.90	10.40
55 to 75 years -----	4.70	4.30	6.50	7.60	6.10	7.70	8.90
75 years and over -----	4.30	4.00	5.80	7.00	5.60	6.90	8.20
Pregnant -----	6.90	6.70	9.00	10.40	9.00	10.80	12.40
Nursing -----	8.00	7.70	10.30	11.60	10.30	12.50	14.00
Men, 20 to 35 years -----	6.50	6.20	8.70	10.60	8.50	10.60	12.60
35 to 55 years -----	6.00	5.70	8.10	9.70	7.90	9.80	11.50
55 to 75 years -----	5.50	5.20	7.50	8.80	7.10	9.00	10.40
75 years and over -----	5.10	4.90	7.20	8.50	6.70	8.70	10.10

See footnotes 1 to 6 of table 1, p. 19.

7/ Special adaptation of low-cost plan especially suitable for food habits in the Southeastern States.



# CONSUMER PRICES

Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers  
(including single workers)  
(1957-59 = 100)

Group	Jan. 1967	Nov. 1967	Dec. 1967	Jan. 1968
All items -----	114.7	117.8	118.2	118.6
Food -----	114.7	115.6	116.2	117.0
Food at home -----	112.3	112.3	112.9	113.8
Food away from home -----	127.0	132.0	132.4	132.9
Housing -----	113.1	115.5	116.0	116.4
Shelter -----	116.5	119.4	119.9	120.2
Rent -----	111.4	113.2	113.5	113.7
Homeownership -----	118.7	121.9	122.6	122.9
Fuel and utilities -----	108.6	109.3	109.3	109.5
Fuel oil and coal -----	110.5	112.7	113.1	113.7
Gas and electricity -----	108.3	109.0	108.7	108.9
Household furnishings and operation	106.7	109.3	109.7	110.6
Apparel and upkeep -----	111.3	116.6	116.8	115.9
Men's and boys' -----	111.6	116.6	116.8	116.3
Women's and girls' -----	106.4	113.5	113.6	111.4
Footwear -----	122.9	127.6	127.9	128.1
Transportation -----	113.4	118.3	117.9	118.7
Private -----	111.4	116.2	115.8	116.6
Public -----	129.8	134.6	134.9	135.5
Health and recreation -----	121.4	126.2	126.6	127.1
Medical care -----	132.9	139.7	140.4	141.2
Personal care -----	113.8	116.9	117.2	117.6
Reading and recreation -----	118.5	122.0	122.2	122.7
Other goods and services -----	116.2	121.0	121.4	121.9

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Index of Prices Paid by Farmers for Family Living Items  
(1957-59 = 100)

Item	Feb. 1967	Sept. 1967	Oct. 1967	Nov. 1967	Dec. 1967	Jan. 1968	Feb. 1968
All items -----	111	113	113	114	114	115	115
Food and tobacco -----	-	116	-	-	115	-	-
Clothing -----	-	124	-	-	126	-	-
Household operation -----	-	113	-	-	114	-	-
Household furnishings -----	-	99	-	-	100	-	-
Building materials, house	-	108	-	-	109	-	-
Autos and auto supplies --	-	108	110	110	110	110	111

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Statistical Reporting Service.

## SOME NEW USDA PUBLICATIONS

(Please give your ZIP code in your return address when you order these.)

DIETARY LEVELS OF HOUSEHOLDS IN THE UNITED STATES, SPRING 1965 -- A Preliminary Report. ARS 62-17. Single free copies available from the Consumer and Food Economics Research Division, Agricultural Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Federal Center Bldg., Hyattsville, Maryland 20782.

The following publications are for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C.20402:

JOB RELATED EXPENDITURES AND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES OF GAINFULLY EMPLOYED WIVES IN NORTH CAROLINA. HERR No. 34. 25 cents.

FOOD CONSUMPTION OF HOUSEHOLDS IN THE UNITED STATES, SPRING 1965. Household Food Consumption Survey 1965-66 Report No. 1. \$1.25.

LOW-INCOME FAMILIES IN THE SPANISH-SURNAME POPULATION OF THE SOUTHWEST. AER No. 112. 25 cents.

Single copies of the following publications are available free from the Office of Information, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250:

EGGS IN FAMILY MEALS: A Guide for Consumers. HG No. 103. Revised 1967.

FRUITS IN FAMILY MEALS: A Guide for Consumers. HG No. 125.

MAKING COTTAGE CHEESE AT HOME. HG No. 129.

SOAPS AND DETERGENTS FOR HOME LAUNDERING. HG No. 139. Supersedes HG No. 49.

HOW TO BUY INSTANT NONFAT DRY MILK. HG No. 140.

HOW TO BUY FRESH VEGETABLES. HG No. 143.

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